

This Week's News

IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday February 9th, 2025

Silent Key - Michael Burke EI4AL

This week, we start with the sad news regarding the death of Michael Burke EI4AL. Michael passed away on Sunday the 2nd of February 2025 in Athlone, Co. Westmeath. He'll be fondly remembered and missed by all who knew him especially within amateur radio circles where he was well known as a great CW operator and a kind mentor to many. We wish to extend our deepest condolences to his wife Anne, daughters Claire, Hilda, and Sheona, sons Micheal and Tom, brothers, sisters, extended family, and wide circle of friends. May he rest in peace.

News from the IRTS

The IRTS would like to extend its thanks to Robert O'Donnell EI5CK who has served as one of our auditors for many years up until his retirement this year. Robert has been a watchful eye on our society's finances each year when he reviews the accounts ahead of the AGM. As such, we are seeking the services of a suitable volunteer replacement to take over this duty. The role only involves the review of end of year accounts, a couple of hours work for someone with a good head for figures and may suit someone with business or accounting experience although this is not essential. For anyone that is interested, you are asked to get in contact with the IRTS secretary Owen EI4GGB at [irts_secretary /at/ irts.ie](mailto:irts_secretary@irts.ie).

The next IRTS committee meeting will take place on Thursday, February 20th at 8:00 p.m. on the Zoom platform. All IRTS affiliated clubs are reminded that under Rule 16.1, the members in each affiliated club, society, or other body may elect a representative and an alternate annually to attend IRTS committee meetings. Clubs wishing to send a representative should notify the IRTS Secretary, Owen EI4GGB at [irts_secretary /at/ irts.ie](mailto:irts_secretary@irts.ie) in advance to ensure notification and links are provided.

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group EI2WRC

The 2025 Annual General Meeting of the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group EI2WRC will take place at 8.00 p.m. sharp on Monday the 24th of February 2025 in the South East Technological University, Netlabs Research and Innovation Building, SETU West Campus, Carriganore, Waterford. The Eircode is X91 WR86. All members are asked to please attend. Any new members or anyone interested in radio communications in general, or finding out more about the group are welcome also.

EI2WRC will be hosting the 92nd IRTS AGM Weekend in the Woodford Dolmen Hotel, Kilkenny Rd, Carlow over the weekend of the 12th and 13th of April 2025. People who are planning on attending are urged to book their hotel rooms immediate as almost all rooms have now been taken. Dinner tickets for the Gala Dinner which will be held on Saturday, April 12th are now available to be pre-booked. Rally tables for clubs/groups and commercial traders for the rally on Sunday, April 13th can now be pre-booked also. Tables for individual traders will be made available to be pre-booked at a later date. For more information, go to searg.ie and click on the IRTS AGM 2025 link.

For more information about EI2WRC, their activities, and for contact details please see www.searg.ie

Updates from Dundalk Amateur Radio Society

The Dundalk Amateur Radio Society holds their monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. at their club headquarters in Marconi House, Castletown Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth. New members are more than welcome to come in and have a cup of tea or coffee, meet the club members, and also have a look at the North East IRTS news team transmitting their weekly news bulletin. The next DARS meeting will take place on the 12th of February 2025.

Dundalk Amateur Radio Society is also holding a bring and buy sale. The sale will take place in their club headquarters from 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday the 5th of March. You are invited to bring any radio-related equipment that may be gathering dust to Marconi House in Dundalk. All funds raised will go directly to supporting the society and its activities. You can find contact details for the club at ei7dar.com.

Patriot Radio Communications AGM

Patriot Radio Communications amateur radio club, EI7PRC, based in Watergrass Hill, Cork, held their Annual General Meeting on January 23rd, 2025. The officers elected were Chairman Denis EI4KH, Secretary and PRO David EI6IQB, and Treasurer Donal EI3KY.

Limerick Clare Amateur Radio Club

The 2025 Annual General Meeting of Limerick Clare Amateur Radio Club takes place on Thursday the 20th of February. It will commence at 7 p.m. sharp in the Technological University of the Shannon, Midlands, Midwest in Moylish, Limerick. All members are asked to attend. The club's weekly activation of EI4SAM runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. The initial calling frequency is 7.123 MHz, plus or minus QRM. All callers are welcome.

Southern Ireland Repeater Group

Farmer's Cross analogue voice repeater EI7FXR on 430.900 MHz, which covers the Cork city and surrounding areas, is back on air since Friday January 31st. A work around was performed to address an intermodulation interference issue that was causing trouble on the repeater. This involved removing the repeaters transmit CTCSS tone. The repeater still needs a 103.5 Hz tone to open it but if you can't hear the repeater on your own radio you will have to remove the receive tone and just set it to normal squelch.

Their digital repeater EI7FXD on 430.250 MHz is also back on air. This has been changed from a DMR only to an MMDVM multimode repeater which is active on DMR, Yaesu System Fusion, D-Star plus standalone analogue with a 103.5Hz tone. It's all based around a Raspberry PI. Sometimes these lock up so it's on a weekly timer to fully reboot once a week if this happens. The team included Neil EI3JE, Jeremy EI5GM, and John EI8JA. The group wishes to also thank John EI8IR for his assistance and for providing the broadband link.

Radio Rally Updates

Phoenix Amateur Radio Club's annual radio rally take place next weekend on Sunday February 16th, 2025. The venue is Coolmine Community School, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15. Doors open at 10 a.m. and entry will cost five euro.

Limerick Clare Amateur Radio Club's annual rally takes place on the 9th of March in Treacy's Oakwood Hotel in Shannon. Contact Dermot Gleeson, EI2GT, at [DermotGleeson1 /at/ gmail.com](mailto:DermotGleeson1/at/gmail.com) to book a table. Only bookings made via email will be accepted.

IRTS Awards curator Mark EI4FNB will be able to collect returning IRTS awards in Coolmine next week and at the Limerick Clare ARC rally on March 9th. For anyone who needs to get in contact with Mark regarding return of trophies, you can find his contact details on the contact section on irts.ie.

Lough Erne Amateur Club's Radio Rally will be held on Sunday the 18th of May 2025. The venue is the Share Discovery Village, 221 Lisnaskea Road, Lisnaskea, Enniskillen BT92 0JZ. Doors will open at 11 a.m. Entry costs five euro or five pounds which includes a ticket for the draw. The rally will include a bring and buy and usual facilities including food and refreshments. Further details are available at LoughErneRadioClub.co.uk.

Items for Inclusion in Next Week's Radio News

That is the news for this week. Items for inclusion in next week's radio news can be submitted by email to [newsteam /at/ irts.ie](mailto:newsteam/at/irts.ie) for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. The deadline is midnight on Thursday.

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